

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Kindly include the Abstract below:

**Abstract**

The disclosure is of a combination of lactic acid bacteria comprising: (a) a first component consisting of at least one strain of  $H_2O_2$ -producing lactic acid bacteria; and (b) a second component consisting of at least one strain of arginine-utilizing lactic acid bacteria. The disclosure is also of the use of this combination for making a food supplement, a hygiene product or a pharmaceutical preparation for the prevention and/or treatment of infections and inflammatory conditions caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi, especially in the mouth, vagina, urethra, nose, eyes and ears.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. Combination according to Claims 1, in which the ratio of the number of bacteria in component (a) to the number of bacteria in component (b) is from 1 : 00 to 100 : 1.

6. Combination according to claim 1 in unit dosage units comprising from  $1 \times 10^2$  to  $5 \times 10^{11}$  bacteria of component (a) and from  $1 \times 10^2$  to  $5 \times 10^{11}$  bacteria of component (b).